

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6045

BILL NUMBER: SB 3

DATE PREPARED: Oct 11, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Internet Posting of School Performance Reports.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill replaces the requirement that a school corporation publish an annual performance report in a newspaper with the requirement that the report be posted on the Internet, with paper copies available upon request to the media and residents of the school corporation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: School corporations would likely experience an increase in administrative time and cost regarding the provisions of this bill. The specific effects of this bill would vary by school corporation and would depend upon the local demands within each respective school corporation.

As proposed by this bill, after the governing body of a school corporation has completed its preparation of the annual performance report, it would be required to make the report available on the Internet, to the media, and to any person in the school district who requests a copy. The school corporation would be allowed to conduct a public hearing to discuss the report by November 15th of each year (currently school corporations have until 60 days after the report is published to conduct such a hearing).

PUBLISHING BACKGROUND

The current practice for publishing annual performance reports is for the Department of Education (DOE) to prepare all charts and explanatory texts and to store them in the DOE Internet site. DOE also prepares a hard copy of the report and mails the reports to all school corporations.

School corporations are then required to add information on enrollment in the CORE 40 curriculum and vocational education, and any additional explanatory text or customization that they wish. To make these additions, school corporations either download the portable document format files off the Internet site, and add information using certain software, or make the changes manually. The edited version is then forwarded to the local newspapers to be printed in the newspaper's classified section.

Under current Indiana law, school corporations are required to publish an annual performance report in a qualified publication between September 1 and September 15 of each year. (School corporations were first required to publish such a report in 1998.)

PUBLISHING COSTS

A sample of 41 school corporations responded to a question from the Indiana School Boards Association about the costs of publishing the annual report in their local newspaper during 1998. The average cost for these school corporations was \$2,522, with costs ranging from a low of \$75 to a high of \$18,000.

Thirty-six of 41 school corporations indicated that they made little or no additions to the performance report before sending them to the local newspapers.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources: Bill Riley, Department of Education, (317) 232-0509.